[XXXVth Year.] [No. 1170.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, May 17, 1781.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

IT is one of the strongest proofs [illegible] years of the decline of public [illegible] virtues and gentleman, in a [illegible] free state, when the people, [illegible] grown indifferent and [illegible] to the choice or conduct of their rulers. It is a very painful talk for a conscientious writer to censure the conduct of our people in the commencement, and for the three first years of the war, with their behaviour since. Every breast glowed with the love of country, and every one offered his services to the public without any reward: our whole people seemed to be animated with one soul. A gradual and fatal change has taken place. Avarice, dissipation, folly, and lethargy, has succeeded to public virtue, industry, wisdom, and the most vigorous exertions. The causes are various, and it is not my intention, at present, to explain them. The citizens of this state, for some time past have been wholly unconcerned in the election, or conduct of their representatives; they seem to declare to the world, that tho' all that is dear and valuable to themselves and their posterity is at stake, yet that they were not unemployed themselves, or in what manner. For almost a year our bay and rivers have been infested and plundered, and our houses laid in ashes, by a few of the lowest, and most infamous of the British subjects, and our more infamous refugees, aided by the two traitor pilots Anderson and Whaland, and a number of our runaway slaves, in two or three small armed vessels, and some barges. Have we the feelings and the spirit of men? If virtue and love of country is lost, our interest, our criminal love of property require us to exert ourselves. Our wicked governors, Robert Alexander, Anthony Stewart, Maguire, and their worthy companions, have effected to plunder us, and have had the impudence to threaten their vengeance, if we punished their executors and systems. The situation of this state, and our means of defence, in case of invasion, the state of our public credit, and resources, must be known to our rulers; and it is not necessary, for any purpose, to make them public, at this time. Our governor thought the public good required the legislature to meet as on last Thursday, and I wish it had been called before. On this day there is not a sufficient number of members to compose a house of delegates, and there are but five members of the senate, in the city. Every man of common understanding must see a necessity for the meeting of our assembly, as soon as possible. When gentlemen accept a seat in the senate, or house of delegates, the most honourable and important trust in the power of the people to bestow, they are bound by the ties of honour and duty, to their constituents and country, to attend the public service; to neglect it is almost a criminal act in any man. If the present shameful delay in the members was the only instance, the people might pardon it; but for three years, if every session, but one, the members of both houses have neglected to come to a quorum, for days, and sometimes a fortnight, after the day on which the assembly was called. This neglect of duty arose, originally, from the expences of government, at that very heavy, and must be very disagreeable and inconvenient to the few who attended. As however, such a sense of duty were insufficient motives to induce the members to discharge their trust, a law was called (after several urgent ones by the heads) to compel [illegible] attendance, under a fine, for each day's neglect. At the first session after words there was a full house, on the day appointed for the meeting, and candles were not lighted when were prevented by accident, or other unavoidable accident, three few resigned their seats. The senators, as usual, did not attend, and it was considered as degrading to the dignity of the body, to fine any of their members. At the next session, very many of the house of delegates, and the greater part of the senate, neglected to attend at the day, and for above a week afterwards. Some of those chosen delegates resigned, and, to the disgrace of the county, they were re-elected. No fines were imposed, and the law has remained a dead letter ever since. If a house of delegates neglect to enforce obedience to a law, which they are to execute, because it may effect themselves, with what propriety can they complain that the laws in general, are disregarded and not obeyed? Our delegates ought to set an example, as individuals, and more especially as a body, of obedience to the laws, which they have made. They ought to be the patterns of public virtue. It cannot be expected that the house of delegates, at the present session, will fine any of their members, for his breach of duty and the positive law, and the injury and expence thereby incurred by the public. Almost the whole are guilty, and no member will choose to draw on himself the resentment of numbers. There can be no great hopes of a reformation, and unless the people will rouse, and enquire into the conduct of their representatives, and discard, at the next election, those who do not merit their confidence, our affairs will grow deliperate, and without any remedy. I consider the present senate as *self-elected*, and not the choice of the people. Their conduct may be the subject of future enquiry. The law to compel the attendance of the members of the assembly, unless enforced this session, and every other law not executed, ought immediately to be repealed.

We have the means of defending our farms, and houses from plunder and destruction, by the present banditti in our bay, and indeed from any force which can probably be spared to act against this state, if we had sense, and spirit to exert them. Let the property of the refugees, Robert Alexander, Anthony Stewart, parsons Boucher and Addison, the three Dulanys, Lloyd, and the two Daniels, be immediately appropriated as a fund, to purchase, fit out, arm, and man three gallies, and six or eight barges. Their estates will be sufficient for the purpose. Let a law be passed, directing the immediate execution of any pirates, or marauders taken within the state, and to kill on the spot any negroes found in arms. This state is well able to protect itself, from any enemy unless in force, and can furnish its proportion of supplies of men and provisions, if our legislature would act with wisdom, firmness, and decision.

WATCH.

WARSAW, *December* 6.

NOTWITHSTANDING the bad weather, the Russian troops in different parts of the Kingdom are in motion to march out of it; they have already quitted Thorn, and some regiments of these troops will pass the Vistula here next week.

Dec. 12. It is said the King of Prussia has ordered 25,000 of his best troops to march towards Silesia, which occasions many conjectures; probably he has the maxim in his mind, *si vis pacem para bellum*.

LONDON, *December* 15. It is reported, that not only the Russian squadron in this port, but 5 other men of war and 3 frigates of that nation, will shortly sail to the Archipelago, if the differences between that court and the Porte are not settled.

LONDON, *December* 26.

Yesterday a quantity of baggage belonging to the draughted soldiers out of the guards, was shipped on board transports in the river for America.

Dec. 30. The royal manifesto was not merely founded on the discoveries made by the capture of Mr. Laurens's papers, nor on the intrigues of Van Berchel and his American associates. Government had found that the states refused joining the armed neutrality, in no other drawing Russia and sweden to warrant their possessions, both foreign and domestic, which those powers at first negotiated to comply with, but had not given an absolute refusal; in this critical juncture, a declaration on the part of England became necessary, by which means our court avoid drawing the powers of Russia and Sweden on them, for commencing hostilities against their intended allies; and the states have also lost the opportunity of joining the armed neutrality, which is, in itself, become almost inoffensive. Denmark having, in the same interval, entered into a treaty with England.

PHILADELPHIA, *May* 9.

The following intercepted letter is published in the New York Mercury extraordinary, of April 19.

Amsterdam, December 28, 1780.

"SIR,

"THE Dutch say the English are acting the part of the tailor, who, having quarrelled with three others as stout as himself, and got his bones broke, and his eyes beat out in the squabble, shall engage four more to fight him at the same time, that he might have an opportunity to make it up with all seven with honour.

"If the English are not actuated by the same blind and vindictive passions, which have governed them for so many years, it is impossible to see through their policy. I think it impossible they should be ignorant of the articles of confederation of the neutral powers; these articles, as I am informed, warrant to all the neutral powers their treaties with England, and stipulate that if either is attacked, after the twentieth of November last, it shall be made a common cause. If the English should issue letters of marque against the Dutch, the states general will not immediately issue letters of marque in return, but will represent the facts to the congress at Petersburg, and demand the benefit of the treaty of armed neutrality; and all the powers who are parties to that confederation, will join in demanding of England restitution, and in case of refusal will jointly issue letters of marque and reprisal.

"The political machine that is now in motion is so vast, and comprehends so many nations, whose interests are not easy to adjust, that it is perhaps impossible for the human understanding to foresee what events may occur to disturb it. But at present there is no unfavourable appearance from any quarter.

"We are in hourly expectation of interesting news from the English, French and Spanish fleets, from Petersburg, Lon-

dom, and the Hague, and especially from North-America. Every wheel in the political system of Europe, would have its motion [illegible] accelerated or retarded from [illegible] of [illegible] Cornwallis to South-Carolina, to give it that [illegible] death of the empress queen, it is generally thought, will make [illegible] the system of Europe; yet it is [illegible] none, however, that can be hurtful to us. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, &c.

JOHN ADAMS.

His Excellency the president of congress [illegible] of the United States.

On public affairs.

Extract of a letter from an officer of the Russian army, dated to Charles Frederick court-house, to Petersburg to Chesterfield court-house, 14 miles from Petersburg, April 29, 1781.

"On the 24th I reconnoitred the enemy's fleet, then lying off Westover, and consisting of 23 vessels and 21 flat bottomed boats full of men. The whole number of ships I do believe to be about 2500. The same day the fleet stood up the river. I therefore ordered general Muhlenberg to move up as high as the vicinity of Blandford. In the evening the enemy landed their whole force at City-point, which fully evinced that their first object was Petersburg. Being obliged to send large detachments to the neck of land between James and Appomattox rivers, I had not more than 1600 man left to oppose the enemy's advance. I determined, however, to defend the place as far as our inferiority of numbers should permit, and made choice of Blandford for the place of defence, and the bridge of Pocahuntas for our retreat. The troops were disposed accordingly and passed the night under arms.

"This morning I was informed that the enemy were within 3 miles of our advanced post, and that 22 flat bottomed boats were at the same time moving up Appomattox river. Towards noon they came in sight, formed and displayed to their left; but it was near 4 o'clock before the firing commenced, which continued from post to post until past 5, when the superior numbers of the enemy obliged me to order a retreat, and the bridge to be taken up, which was executed in the greatest order, notwithstanding the fire of the enemy's cannon and musquetry. With the same good order the troops retreated to this place, where they are just encamped. I am not yet able to ascertain our loss, but believe it not to be great. I do not think the enemy took a single prisoner. Of the enemy's loss I can form no judgment.

"General Muhlenberg merits my particular acknowledgments for the good disposition he made, and the great gallantry with which he executed it. Indeed the gallant conduct of all the officers and the particular good behaviour of the men must, I am persuaded, have attracted the admiration of the enemy.

"I have the pleasure to say that our troops disputed the ground with the enemy inch by inch, and executed their manœuvres with great coolness.

Published by order,

CHARLES THOMSON, *sec.*"

To be SOLD in Annapolis,

A FAIR of very strong grey HORSES, upwards of fifteen hands high.

WILLIAM BROWN.

West-river, March 2, 1781.

THIS is to give notice, that I intend to apply to the next general assembly for a confirmation of my title to part of a tract of land, lying in Montgomery county, purchased of Mr. Edward Sprigg, junior. 5w

THOMAS MORTON, jun.

By virtue of an act of assembly, &c.

[illegible] CHARLES RIDGELY.
MICHAEL FUS.
W. GOODWIN.
W. BUCHANAN.
ELEANOR DORSEY.

N. B. The life is deferred, on account of its not having been advertised six weeks successively in the Maryland Gazette, agreeable to law.

Office for the preservation and sale of forfeited estates, April 9, 1781.

To be SOLD at VENDUE,

THE two manors of Beaver-dam and Chaptico, lying in St. Mary's county, in parcels as supposed to suit purchasers, or otherwise, as may be most conducive to the general interest. One fifth of the lands are cleared, part of the liver at present yet in woods, and to be let for terms of years by ascertained rents. The sale of Beaver-dam will begin at Leonard-town on Tuesday the 22d of May next, and of Chaptico on the Thursday following. One fifth of the purchase to be paid in specie, within three months from the day of sale, the remainder in bills of credit of the late emission, one half in two months, and the other half in four months from the day of sale.

By order,

G. DUVALL, C.

N. B. The sale of Beaver-dam manor above mentioned is postponed until Tuesday the 12th of June, and of Chaptico until the Monday following. 4 G. D.

March 12, 1781.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a petition signed by the subscribers and many others was preferred to the last general assembly, praying the construction of a road, which was laid out from after the building of Bullock's lower mills, and which led out of the Elk-ridge road above Mr. Ely Dorsey's, and between the said Mr. Ely Dorsey's and Mr. Mitchell Dorsey's, also between Mr. Royce Howard's and Mr. Julius Howard's to the land of Mr. Rezin Hammond, then into the land of said Rezin Hammond to the upper corner of Vachel Brown's land, above to intersect an accustomed road, then down said Brown's land to Patapsco bridge, then with the same road to Dr. Parr's land, thus to Hell-town, across to Balderton's tavern, and so to Bullock's lower mills; which said petition was referred to the consideration of the next general assembly. Notice of the same will be continued in this gazette for eight weeks, agreeable to the request of the honourable house of delegates.

REZIN HAMMOND,
M. PUE,
JOSHUA HOWARD.

[illegible]

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